A QVIP FOR AN VPSTART COVRTIER:

OR,

A quaint diſpute betweene Veluet breeches and Cloth breeches.

Wherein is plainely ſet downe the diſorders in all Eſtates and Trades.

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TO THE RIGHT VVORSHIPFVLL, THOMAS BVRNABY *Esquire*, ROBERT GREENE wisheth hearts-ease, and heauens blisse.

SIR, *after I had ended this Quip for an Vpstart Courtier, containing a quaint dispute between Cloth breeches, and Velvet breeches; wherein vnder a dreame I shaddowed the abuses that Pride had bred in* England, *how it had infected the Court with aspiring Enuy, the Citie with griping Couetousnesse, and the Countrey with contempt and disdaine: How since men placed their delights in proud lookes, and braue attire, Hospitality was left off, Neighbourhood was exiled, Conscience was scoft at, and Charitie lay frozen in the streets. How vpstart Gentlemen for the maintenance of that their fathers neuer lookt after, raised Rents, rackt their Tenants, and imposed great Fines, I stood in amaze to whom I*

ſhould dedicate my Labours; knowing I ſhould be bitten by many, ſithence I haue toucht many, and therefore neede ſome worthy Patron, vnder whoſe wings I might ſhroud my ſelfe from goodman find-fault. At laſt, I cald to minde your Worſhip, and thought you the fitteſt of all my friends, both for the duty that I owe, and the worſhipfull qualities you are indued withall; as alſo for that all Northhamtonſhire reports, how you are a father of the Poore, a ſupporter of ancient Hoſpitalitie, an enemy to Pride; and to be ſhort, a maintainer of Cloth breeches (I meane of the old and worthy cuſtomes of the Gentilitie, and Yeomanry of England.) *Induced by theſe reaſons; I humbly preſent this Pamphlet to your Worſhip, onely crauing you wil accept it as courteouſly, as I preſent it dutifully, and then I haue the end of my deſire: and ſo reſting in hope of your fauourable acceptance, I humbly take my leaue.*

Your dutifull adopted ſonne,

ROBERT GREENE.

TO THE GENTLEMEN

Readers, health.

GEntle Gentlemen, I hope Cloth breeches ſhall finde your gentle Cenſors of this homely Apologie, of his ancient Prerogatiues, ſith though hee ſpeakes againſt Veluet breeches which you weare; yet hee twits not the weede, but the vice; not the apparell when tis worthily worn, but the vnworthy perſon that weares it; who ſprang of a Peſant, will vſe any ſiniſter meanes to clime to preferment, being then ſo proud, as the foppe forgets like the Aſſe, that a Mule was his Father. For ancient Gentilitie, and Yeomanry, Cloth breeches attempteth this quarrell, and hopes of their fauour. For Vpſtarts hee is halfe careleſſe; and the more, becauſe hee knowes whatſoeuer ſome thinke priuately, they will bee no publike carpers: leſt by kicking where they are toucht, they bewray their gald backs to the world; and by ſtarting vp to find fault, proue themſelues vpſtarts, and fooles. So then poore Cloth breeches ſets downe his reſt on the cour-

courtesie of gentle Gentlemen; and bold Yeomen, that they will suffer him to take no wrong. But suppose the worst, that he should be frowned at, and that such occupations as hee hath vpon conscience discarded from the Iury, should commence an action of vnkindnes against him, heele proue it not to hold plea; because all the debate was but a dreame. And so hoping all men will merrily take it, hee stands solemnely leaning on his Pike-staffe, till he heare what you conceiue of him, for being so peremptory. If well, hee sweares to cracke his hose at the next, to quite your courtesie. If hardly, hee hath vowed that whatsoeuer hee dreames, neuer to blab it againe, and so hee wisheth mee humbly to bid you farewell.

A QVIP FOR AN VP-START COVRTIER.

IT was iuſt at that time when the Cuckolds Nuirſtfer began to bewray April Gentlemen, with his neuer-changed notes, that I damped with a melancholy humor, went into the fields to cheere vp my wits with the freſh ayre: where ſolitary ſerking to ſolace my ſelfe, I fell in a dreame, and in that drowſie ſlumber, I wandered into a vale all tapiſtred with ſweet and choice flowers, there grew many ſimples, whoſe vertues taught men to be ſubtill, and to thinke nature by her workes warn'd men to be wary, and by their ſecret properties to check wanton and ſenſuall imperfections. Amongſt the reſt, there was the yellow Daffadil, a flower fit for iealous Dottrils, who though the beauty of their honeſt wiues grow ſuſpitious, and ſo proue themſelues in the end cuckold Heretikes: there budded out the checkerd (Paunſie) or partly-coloured Harts-eaſe, an herbe ſeldome ſeene, either of ſuch men as are wedded to ſhrewes or of ſuch women that haue hatty huſbands, yet there it grew, & as I ſtept to gather it, it ſlipt from me like Tantalus fruit that failes their Maſter. At laſt, wondring at this ſecret qualitie, I learned that none can weare it, be they Kings, but ſuch as deſire no more then they are borne to, nor haue their wiſhes aboue their fortunes. Vpon a banke bordring by, grew womens weeds, Fenell I meane for flatterers, fit generally for that Sexe, ſith while they are maidens, they wiſh wantonly: while they are wiues, they will

will-

wilfully, while they are widdowes, they would willingly: and yet all these proud desires, are but close dissemblings. Néere adioyning sprouted out the Courtiers comfort, Time: An herb that many stumble on, and yet ouerslip, whose ranke sauour and thicke leaues haue this peculiar property, to make a Snaile if she taste of the sap, as swift as a Swallow; yet ioyned with this preiudice, that if she clime too hastily, she fals too suddenly. Me thought I saw diuers yong Courtiers tread vpon it with high disdaine; but as they past away, an Adder lurking there, bit them by the héeles that they wept: and then I might perceiue certaine Clownes in clowted shoone gather it, and eate of it with greedinesse: which no sooner was sunke into their mawes, but they were metamorphosed, and lookt as proudly, though Pesants, as if they had beene borne to be Princes companions.

Amongst the rest of these changelings whom the taste of time had thus altered, there was some that lifted their heads so hye, as if they had béen bred to looke no lower then Starres: they thought Noli altum sapere was rather the saying of a foole, then the censure of a Philosopher, and therefore stretcht themselues on their tiptoes, as if they had béen a kindred to the Lord Tiptoft, and began to disdain their equals, scorne their inferiours, and euen their betters, forgetting now that time had taught them to say Masse: how before they had playde the Clarks part to say Amen to the Priest. Tush, then they were not so little as Gentlemen, and their owne conceit was the Herauld to blazon their discent, from an old house, whose great Grandfathers would haue been glad of a new Cottage to hide their heads in. Yet as the Peacock wrapt in the pride of his beauteous feathers, is knowne to be but a dunghill bird by his foule feete: so though the high lookes, and costly sutes, argue to the eyes of the world they were Caualiers of great Worship: yet the churlish illiberalitie of their mindes, bewraid their fathers were not aboue three pounds in the Kings books at a Subsidie: but as these vpstart changelings went strouting like Philopolimorchides the braggart in Plautus, they lookt so proudly at the same, that they stumbled on a bed of Rue, that grew at the bottome of the Banke where the Time was planted, which fall vpon the dew of so bitter an herbe, taught them, that such proud peacocks as ouerhastily out-reuiue their fortunes, at last too spéedily, fall to repentance, and yet some of them smild and said, Rue was called herbe-grace,

which

which though they scorned in their youth, they might weare in their age, and it was neuer too late to say Miserere. As thus I stood musing at this time borne brood, they vanisht away like Cadmus copesmates, that sprang vp of Vipers teeth: so that casting mine eye aside after them, I saw where a crue of all estates were gathering flowers, what kinde they were of I knew not: but precious I gesse them, in that they pluckt them with greedinesse; so that I drewe towards them to be partaker of their profits: comming nearer, I might see the weede they so wrangled for, was a little dapper flower, like aground Hunnisuckle, called Thrift, praised generally of all, but practised for distillation but of few: amongst the crue that seemed couetous of this herb, there was a troope of old graybeards in Veluet, Sattin, and Worsted iackets, that stooped as nimbly to plucke it vp by the roots, as if their ioynts had beene suppled in the oyle of Misers skins: they spared no labour and paines to get and gather, and what they got, they gaue to certaine yong boyes and girles that stood behinde them, with their skirts and laps open to receiue it: among whom some scattered it as fast as their fathers gathered it, wasting and spoiling it at their pleasure, which their fathers got with labour.

I thought them to be some Herbalists, or some Apothecaries, that had imployed such paines to extract some rare quintessence out of this flower: but one standing by, told me they were Cormorants & vsurers, that gathered it to fill their coffers with. And wherto (quoth I) is it precious? what is the vertue of it? Mary (qd. he) to qualifie the heat of insatiable minds, that like the serpent Dipsas neuer drinketh enough, till they are so full, they burst. Why then, said I, the Diuell burst them all: & with that I fell into a great laughter, to see certaine Italianate Cantes, humorous Caualiers, youthfull Gentlemen, and Inamorati gagliardi, that scornefully pluckt of it, and wore it a while, as if they were weary of it, and at last left it as too base a flower to put in their Nosegayes. Others that seemed Homini di grand istima by their lookes and their walkes, gathered earnestly, and did pocket it vp, as if they meant to keep it carefully: but as they were carrying it away, there met them a troupe of nice wantons, faire women, that like to Lamiæ had faces like Angels, eyes like stars, brests like the golden front in the Hesperides: but from the middle downwards their shapes like serpents. These with Syrenlike allurement so en-

tised these quaint Squires, that they bestowed all their flowers vpon them for fauours, they themselues walking home by beggers bush for a penance. Amongst this crue were Lawyers, and they gathered the Diuell and all, but poore Poets were thrust backe, and could not bee suffered to haue one handfull to put amongst their withered garlands of Bayes, to make them glorious. But Hob and Iohn of the countrey they stept in churlishly, in their high startops, and gathered whole sackfuls: insomuch they wore besoms of Thrift in their Hats like forehorses, or the lusty Gallants in a Morrice dance: seeing the crue thus to wrangle for so paltry a weede, I went alone to take one of all the other fragrant flowers that diapzed this valley, thereby I saw the Bachelors buttons, whose vertue is to make wanton maidens weepe, when they haue worne it forty weekes vnder their aprons for a fauour.

Next them grew the dissembling Daisie, to warne such light of loue wenches, not to trust euery faire promise that such amorous Batchelers make them: but sweet smels breed bitter repentance. Hard by grew the true louers primrose, whose kind sauour wisheth men to be faithfull, and women courteous. Amongst in a border grew Maidenhaire, fit for modest maidens to behold, and immodest to blush at, because it praiseth the one for their naturall Tresses, and condemneth the other for their beastly and counterfeit Perriwigs: there was the gentle Gilliflower that wiues should weare if they were not too froward: and loyall Lauender, but that was full of Cuckow-spittes, to shew that womens light thoughts make their husbands heauy heads: there were sweet Lillies Gods plenty, which shewed, faire Virgins need not weep for woers, and store of balme which could cure strange wounds, only not that wound which women receiue when they lose their maidenheads, for no herbe hath vertue inough to scrape out that blot, and therefore it is the greater blemish. Infinit were the flowers beside that beautified the valley, that to know their names and operations I needed some curious herball, but I passe them ouer as needlesse, sith the vision of their vertues was but a dreame, and therefore I wish no man to hold any discourse herein authenticall: yet thus much I must say for a parting blow, that at the lower end of the dale I saw a great many of women vsing high words to their husbands, some striuing for the Breeches, other to haue the last word, some fret-

ting,

ting, they could not finde a knot in a rush, others striuing whether it were woll or haire the Goat bare: questioning with one that I met, why these women were so cholericke; hee like a scoffing fellow pointed to a bush of Nettles, I not willing to be satisfied by signes, asked him what he meant thereby. Mary (quoth he) all these women that you heare brawling, frowning, and scolding thus, haue seuerally pist on this bush of Nettles, and the vertue of them is to force a woman that wattes them, to be as peruish for a whole day, and as waspish as if she had beene stung in the brow with a hornet. Well, I smild at this and left the company to seeke further, when in the twinkling of an eye I was left alone, the valley cleered of all company, and I a distressed man, desirous to wander out of that solitary place to seeke good consorts and boone companions to passe away the day withall. As thus I walked forward, seeking vp the hill, I was driuen halfe into a maze with the imagination of a strange wonder which fell out thus: Once thought I saw an vncouth headlesse thing come pacing downe the hill, stepping so proudly with such a Geometricall grace, as if some artificiall braggert had resolued to measure the world with his paces: I could not descry it to be a man, although it had motion, for that it wanted a body, yet seeing legges and hose, I supposed it to be some monster nourisht vp in those desarts: at last as it drew more nigh vnto me, I might perceiue that it was a very passing costly paire of Velvet Breeches, whose panes being made of the chiefest Neapolitane-stuffe, was drawne out with the best Spanish Sattin, and maruellous curiously ouer whipt with gold twist, interseamed with knots of pearle: the Netherstocke was of the purest Granado silke; no cost was spared to set out these costly Breeches, who had girt vnto them a Rapier and Dagger gilt, point pendant, as quaintly as if some curious Florentine had trickt them vp, to square it vp and downe the streetes before his Mistresse. As these breeches were exceeding sumptuous to the eye, so were they passing pompous in their gestures, for they strouted vp and downe the Valley as proudly, as though they had there appointed to act some desperate combate.

Blame mee not if I were driuen into a muse with this most monstrous sight, to see in that place such a strange headlesse Courtier ietting vp and downe like the vsher of a Fenceschoole about to play

his Prize, when I déeme neuer in any age such a wonderfull obiect fortuned vnto any man before. Well, the greater dumpe this Nouelty draue mee into, the more desire I had to sée what euent would follow: wherupon looking about to see if that any more company would come, I might perceiue from the top of the other hill another paire of Bréeches more soberly marching, and with a softer pace, as if they were not too hasty, and yet would kéepe promise neuerthelesse at the place appointed. As soone as they were come into the vally, I saw they were a plaine paire of Cloth-bréeches, without either welt or gard, straight to the thigh, of white Kersie, without a slop, the nether-stocke of the same, sewed to aboue the knée, and onely seamed with a little country blue, such as in Diebus illis our great Grandfathers wore, when neighbourhood and hospitality had banisht Pride out of England. Nor were these plaine Bréeches weaponlesse, for they had a good sowre. But with a Pike in the end, able to lay on load inough, if the heart were answerable to the weapon, and vpon this staffe pitcht downe vpon the ground, Cloth-bréeches stood solemnely leaning, as if they meant not to start, but to answere to the vttermost whatsoeuer in that place might be obiected. Looking vpon these two, I might perceiue by the pride of the one, and homely resolution of the other, that this their meeting would grow to some dangerous conflict: and therefore to preuent the fatall issue of such a pretended quarell, I stept betwéen them both, when Veluet-bréeches gréeted Cloth-bréeches with this salutation: Proud and insolent Pesant, how darest thou without leaue or lowe reuerence presse into the place whither I am come for to disport my selfe? Art thou not afraid, thy high presumption should summon me to displeasure, and so force me draw my Rapier, which is neuer vnsheathed but it turnes into the Scabberd with a triumph of mine enemies bloud: Bold bayard, auaunt, beard me not to my face, for this time I pardon thy folly, and grant thy legges leaue to carry away thy life. Cloth-breeches nothing amazed at this brauado, bending his staffe as if he meant (if he were wronged) to bestow his benison, with a scornefull kind of smiling, made this smooth reply: Mary gip, goodman Vpstart, who made your father a Gentleman? soft fire makes sweet mault, the curstest Cow hath the shortest hornes, and a brawling curre, of all bites the least: alas, good Sir, are you so fine that no man may be your fellow? I pray you what difference is betweene

you and me, but in the cost and the making? though you bee neuer so richly cambde with gold and powdred with Pearle, yet you are but a case for the buttockes, and a couer for the basest part of a mans body no more then I, the greatest preeminence is in the garnishing, and thereof you are proud, but come to the true vse wee were appointed to, my honour is more then thine, for I belong to the old ancient yeomanry, yea, and gentility; the fathers, and thou to a company of proud and vnmannerly vpstarts the sonnes. At this, Velure-breeches storm'd and said, Why, thou beggars brat, descended from the rewersion of base pouerty, is thy insolency so great to make comparison with me, whose difference is as great as the brightnesse of the sunne and the slender light of a candle? I (poore snake) am sprung from the ancient Romans, borne in Italy, the mistresse of the world for chiualry, calde into England from my native home (where I was famous) to honour your country and young gentlemen here in England with my countenance, where I am holden in high regard, that I can presse into the presence, when thou poore soule shalt with cap and knee beg leaue of the porter to enter: and I sit and dine with the Nobility, when thou art faine to waite for the rewersion of the Almes basket: I am admitted boldly to tell my tale, when thou art faine to sue by meanes of supplication, e that and thou too so little regarded, that most commonly it neuer comes to the princes hand, but dies imprisoned in some obscure pocket: With the there is such difference betwixt our estates, cease to vrge my patience with thy insolent presumption. Cloth breeches as briefe as he was proud, swore by the pike of his staffe, that his thoplogicke was not worth a pin, and that he would turne his owne weapon into his bosome thus: Why Signior Glorioso (qd. he) though I haue not such glosing phrase to trick out my speeches with all as you, yet I will come ouer your fallowes with this bad Rhetoricke: I pray you Mounsieur Malapert are you therefore, my superiour, because you are taken vp with Gentlemen, e I with the yeomanry? Doth true vertue consist in riches, or humanity in wealth? is ancient honour tied to outward bravery? or not rather true Nobilitie, a minde excellently qualified with rare vertues? I will teach thee a lesson worth the hearing, proud pincocke, how Gentility first sprung vp, I will not forget the old wives Logicke, When Adam delu'd and Eue span, who was then a Gentleman? but I tell thee, after

the generall flood, that there was no more men vpon the earth but Noe and his three sonnes, and that Cham had wickedly discouered his fathers secrets, then grew the diuision of estates thus: The Church was figured in Sem, Gentility in Iapheth, and labour and drudgerie in Cham: Sem being chaste and holy, Iapheth learned and valiant, Cham churlish and seruile, yet did not the curse extend so farre vpon Cham, nor the blesting vpon Iapheth, but if the one altered his nature, and became either indued with learning or valour, he might be a Gentleman, or if the other degenerated from his ancient vertues, he might be held a Pesant: whereupon Noe inferred that Gentility grew not onely by propagation of nature, but by perfection of qualities. Then is your Worship wide that boast of your worth for your gold, and pearle, sith Cucullus non facit Monachum, nor a Velvet slop makes a slouen a Gentleman: And whereas thou sayst thou wert borne in Italy, and called hither by our Courtiers, him may we curse that brought thee first into England: for thou camest not alone, but accompanied with a multitude of abominable vices, hanging to thy bumbast nothing but infectious abuses, as vaine-glory, frisolous Vodomy, and strange poisonings, wherewith thou hast infected this glorious Iland: yea insolent braggart, thou hast defiled thine owne nest, and fatall was the day of thy birth: for since the time of thy hatching in Italy, as then famous for Chiualry and Learning, the imperiall state through thy pride hath decayed, and thou hast like the young Pellican perkt at thy mothers brest with thy presumption, causing them to lose that their forefathers with true honour conquered: so hast thou beene the ruine of the Romane Empire, and now fatally art thou come into England to attempt heere the like subuersion. Whereas thou doest boast that I am little regarded, where thou art highly accounted of, and hast sufferance to presse into the presence, when I am for my simplenesse shut out of doore: I grant thy allegation in part, but not in whole, for men of high wisedome and honour measure not men by the outward shew of brauery, but by the inward worth and honesty: and so though I am disdained of a few ouerweening fooles, I am valued as well as thy selfe with the wise. In that thou sayst thou canst speake when I sue by supplication, I grant it, but the Tale thou tell'st, is to the ruine of the poore: for comming into high fauour with an impudent face, what Farme is there expi-

red, whose Lea se thou doest not begge? what forfeit of penall Statutes? what concealed Lands can ouerslip thee? yea rather then thy brauery should faile, begge powling pence for the dery smoke that comes out of poore mens chimneys: shamest thou not, outlandish vpstart, to heare me discourse thy imperfections? get thee home againe into thy owne countrey, and lee me as I was wont, liue famous in my natiue home in England where I was borne and bred, yea, and bearded Cæsar thy countryman, till he compast the conquest by Treason. The right and Title in this country, base brat (qd. Veluet breeches?) now authoritie fauours me, I am admitted vice-roy, and I will make thee doe me homage, & confesse that thou holdst thy being and residence in my Land from the gracious fauour of my sufferance: and with that he laid hold on the hilts of his Rapier, and Cloth breeches betooke him to his Staffe, when I stepping betwixt them parted them thus. Why, what meane ye? will you decide your controuersie by blowes, when you may debate it by reason? this is a Land of peace, gouerned by true iusticiaries, and honourable Magistrates, where you shal haue equity without partialitie: and therefore listen to me, and discusse the matter by law: your quarrell is, whether of you are most ancient, and most worthy. You Sir, boast of your countrey and parentage; he of his natiue birth in England: you claime all, he would haue but his owne, both plead an absolute Title of residence in this countrey: then must the course betweene you be trespasse or disseison, frank tenement: you Veluet breeches of in that you claime the first Title, you shall be plaintiffe, and plead a trespasse of disseison done you by Cloth breeches, so shall it bee brought to a Iury, and tryed by a verdict of twelue, or foure and twenty. Tush, tush, quoth Veluet breeches, I neither like to bee plaintiffe, nor yet allow of a Iury, for they may be partiall, and so condemne me in mine owne action: for the country Swaines cannot value of my worth, nor can mine Honours come within the compasse of their base wits: because I am a stranger in this Land, and but heere lately arriued, they will hold me as an vpstart, and so lightly esteeme of my worthinesse: and for my Aduersary is their countryman, and lesse chargeable, he shall haue the Law mitigated, if a Iury of Hinds or Pesants should be impanelled: if ancient Gentlemen, Yeomen, or plaine Ministers should be of the Quest, I

were sure to lose the day, because they loath me, in that I haue perswaded so many Landlords, for the maintenance of my brauery, to raise their rents. You séeke a knot in a Rush (quoth I) you néede not doubt of that: for whom you distrust, and think not indifferent, him you vpon cause manifested, challenge from your Jury. If your law allow such large fauour (quoth Veluet bréeches) I am content my Title be tryed by a Jury: and therefore let mine Aduersary plead me, Nul tort, Nul disseisin so. Cloth bréeches was cõtent with this, and so they both agreed I should be iudge, and Juror in this Controuersie: wherevpon I wisht them to say for themselues what they could, that I might discourse to the Jury, what reasons they alledged of their Titles: then Veluet bréeches began thus, I cannot but grieue ẏ I should be thus outfac't with a Carters weed, onely fit for husbandry, séeing I am the originall of all honourable endeuours: To what end doth youth bestow their wits on Law, Physicke, or Theology, were it not the end they ayme at, is the wearing of me, and winning of preferment? Honour nourisheth Art, and for the regard of dignity, doe learned men striue to excéede in their faculty.

Impiger extremos currit Mercator ad Indos,
Per mare, per saxa, &c.

What driues the Merchants to seeke forraine marts, to venter their goods and hazard their liues? not, if still the end of their trauell were a paire of cloth breeches: no, Veluet, costly attire, curious and quaint apparel, is the spur that pricks them forward to attempt such danger. Doth not the Souldior fight to be braue? the Lawyer study to countenance himselfe with cost: the Artificer takes paines onely for my sake, that wearing me, hee may bragge it amongst the best. What credit carries he now adayes that goes pind vp in a Cloth breech? who will keep him company that thinks well of himselfe, vnlesse he vse the simple slaue to make cleane his shoone? the worlds are chang'd, and men are growne to more wit, and their minds to aspire after more honorable thoughts: they were Dunces in Diebus illis, they had not the true vse of Gentility, and therefore they liued meanely, and died obscurely: but now mens capacities are refined, time hath set a new edge on Gentlemens humors, and they shew them as they should be, not like gluttons, as their fathers

did,

did, in chines of Beefe, and almes to the poore: but in Veluets, Sottins, Cloth of gold, Pearle, yea, pearle Lace, which scarce Caligula wore on his birth day: & to this honourable humour haue I brought these Gentlemen since I came from Italy. What is the end of seruice to a man, but to countenance himselfe, and credit his Master with braue suites? the scurvy Tapsters and Ostlers sex populi, fill pots, and rub horseheeles, to prank themselues with my glory: alas, were it not to weare me, why should so many apply themselues to extraordinary idlenes? Beside, I make fooles be reuerenc'd, and thought wise amongst the common sort: I am a seuere sensor to such as offend the law, prouided there be a penalty annexed, that may bring in some profit; yea, by me, the chiefest part of this Realme is gouerned, and therfore I refer my Title to the verdit of any men of iudgement. To this mildely Cloth breeches answered thus.

As I haue had alwayes that honest humour in me, to measure all estates by their Vertues, not by their Apparell: so did I neuer grudge at the brauery of any, whom birth, time, place, or dignity made worthy of such costly ornaments: but if by the fauour of their Prince, and their own deserts, they merited them, I held both lawfull, and commendable, to answere their degrees in apparell, correspondent vnto their dignities. I am not so precise, directly to inueigh against the vse of Veluet, either in breeches, or in other sutes, nor will I haue men goe like Iohn Baptist, in coats of Camels haire. Let Princes haue their Diadems, and Cæsar what is due to Cæsar: Let Noblemen goe as their birth requires, and Gentlemen as they are borne, or beare office: I speake in mine owne defence, for the ancient Gentility, and Yeomanry of England, and inueigh against none, but such Malapert Vpstart, as raised vp from the Plough, or aduanced for their Italian deuices, or for their witlesse wealth, couet in brauery to match, nay, to exceed the greatest Noblemen in this Land.

But leauing this digression, Mounsieur Veluet breeches, again to the particulars of your fond allegation. Whereas you affirme your selfe to be both originall & finall end of Learning: alas proud princox, you perch a bow too high; did all the philosophers beat their braines, and busie their wits to weare Veluet breeches? Why, both at that time thou wert vnknowne, yea vnborne, and all excesse in

apparell had in high contempt, and now in these dayes, all men of worth are taught by reading, that excesse is a great sinne: that pride is the first steppe to the downefall of shame. They study with Tully, that they may seeme borne for their countries as well as for themselues: The Diuine to iustice, the Physician to discouer the secrets of Gods wonders, by working strange cures: to bee briefe, the end of all being as to know God, and not as your worship, good master Velvet breeches writes to creep into acquaintance.

I will not deny, but there be as fantasticall fooles as your selfe, that perhaps are puft vp with such presuming thoughts, and ambitiously aime to trick themselues in your Worships Walking suites: but while such climbe for great honours, they often fall to great shames. It may be thereupon you bring in Honos alit Artes: but I gesse your Masterships neuer tryed what true honour meant, that trusse it vp within the compasse of a paire of Velvet-breeches, and place it in the arrogancy of the heart: no: say honour is idolatry, for they make soules of themselues, and Idols of their carcasses: but he that taketh honour so, shall neede a Lecture out of Apulcius golden asse, to learne him more wit. But now sir, by your leave, a blow with your next argument, which is, that marchants hazard their goods and lines to be acquainted with your Mastership. Indeed you are awry: for wisemen frequent marts for profit, not for pride, vnlesse it be some that by wearing of Velvet breeches and apparell too high for their calling, haue proued Bankerouts in their youth, and haue beene glad in their age to desire my acquaintance, and to trusse vp their tailes in home-spunne Russet: whereas thou dost obiect the valour of hardy Souldiers to grow for the desire of braue apparell. 'Tis false, and I know if any were present, they would proone vpon thy bones that thou wert a lyer: for their countryes good, their Princes seruice, the defence of their friends, the hope of fauour is the finall end of their resolutions: esteeming not only them by the worlds glory, fickle, transitory, and inconstant. Shall I fetch from thine owne country, weapons to wound thy selfe withall? What saist thou to Cincinnatus? was he not called to be Dictator from the Plough, and after many victories: what, did he set vp and downe the Court in costly garments and Velvet breeches? No, he despised dignity, contemned vaine glory and pride,

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and returned againe to his quiet contented life in the country. How much did Caius Fabritius value their Numa Pompilius Scevola, Scipio, Epaminondas, Aristides? they held themselues wormes meate, & counted pride vanity, and yet thou art not ashamed to say, thou art the end of Souldiers worthy honour. I tell thee, saucy Skip-iack, it was as good and a blessed time here in England, when King Stephen wore a paire of cloth Breeches of a noble a paire, and thought them passing costly, then did he count Westminster Hall too little to be his dining Chamber, and his almes was not bare bones, in stead of broken meate, but lusty chines of Beefe fell into the poore mens Basket. Then charity flourished in the Court, and young Courtiers strout to exceede one another in vertue, not in bravery: they rode not with fannes to ward their faces from the winde, but with Burgant to resist the stroke of a Battleare: they could better exhort a Souldier to Armour, then court a Lady with Amorets: they caused the Trumpet to sound them points of Warre, not Poets to write them wanton Elegies of love; they sought after honourable fame, but hunted not after fading honour: which distinction by the way take thus. There bee some that seeke honour, and some are sought after by honour. Such vpstarts as fetch their pedigree from their fathers ancient Leather apron, and creepe into the Court with great humilitie, ready at the first Basciare li piedi di la vostra signoria, having gotten the countenance of some Nobleman, will strait be a kinsman to Cadwaller, and sweare his great Grandmother was one of the Burgesses of the Parliament house, will at last steale by degrees into some credit by their double diligence, and then winde some Worshipfull place, as farre as a hungry Sow can smell a fir. reuerence, and then with all their friends seeke day & night with coyne and countenance till they haue got it. Others there be, whom honour it selfe seeks; and such be they whom vertue doth frame fit for that purpose, that rising & by high deserts, as Learning, or Valour, merit more then either they look for, or their Prince hath any ease conueniently to bestow on them. Such honour seeks, & they with a blushing conscience entertaine him, bee they neuer so high in fauour, yet they begge no Office, as the shameleſſe vpstart doth, that hath a hungry eye, to spy out an impudent face to sue, and a flattering

tongue to entreate for some void place of worship, which little belonged to them, if the Prince intended to bestow offices for vertue, not fauour. Other, Master Veluet breeches, there be of your crue, that pinch their bellies to polish their backs, that keep their mawes empty, to fill their purses, that haue no shew of gentility but a Veluet slop, who by poling or selling of Land that their father left, will bestow all to buy an office about the Court, that they may be worshipfull, extorting from the poore, to raise vp their money that the base deceiuing companions haue laid out to haue an office of some countenance and credit, wherein they may haue of me better then themselues, be tearmed by the name of Worship. The last whom vertue pleadeth for, and neither siluer, gold, friends, nor fauour aduanceth, be men of great worth, such as are thought of Worship, and vnwillingly entertaine her, rather vouchsafing proffered honor for their Countryes cause, then for any proud opinion of hoped for preferment.

Blessed are such Lands whose officers are so placed, and where the Prince promoteth not for coine nor countenance, but for his worthy deseruing vertues. But leauing this by-talke, me thought I heard you say, Signior Veluet breeches, that you were the father of Mechannicall Arts, and handy-crafts were found out to foster your brauery. In faith, goodman Goose-cap, you that are come from the startvps, and therefore is called an vpstart, quasi, start vp from clowted shoon, your lips hung in your light when you brought forth this Logike: for I hope there is none so simple, but knowes that handicrafts and occupations grew for necessity, not prive: that mens inuentions waxed sharpe to profit the Common wealth, not to pranke vp themselues in brauery. I pray you, when Tubalcaine inuented tempring of Metals, had hee Veluet bréeches to weare? In sadnesse, where was your Worship, when his brother found out the accords and discords of Musicke hidden in hel, and not yet thought on by the Diuell, to cast forth as a baite to bring many proud fooles to ruine?

Indéede, I cannot deny, but your worship hath brought in deceit as a iourney-man into all companies, and made that a subtile craft, which while I was holden in esteeme, was but a simple mystery: now euery trade hath his fleights, to slubber vp his worke

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to the eye, and to make it good to the sale, howsoeuer it proones in the wearing. The Shoomaker cares not if his shoes hold the drawing on: the Taylor sowes with hot needle, and burnt thred. Tush, pride hath banisht conscience, and Velvet breeches honestly, and euery scruile drudge must ruffle in his silkes, or else he is not suteable.

The world was not so, A principio, for when Velvet was worne but in Kings caps, then Conscience was not a Broome-man in Kent-streete, but a Courtier, then the Farmer was content his sonne should hold the Plough, and liue as he had done before: Beggers then feared to aspire, and the higher sort scorned to enuy. Now euery Lowt must haue his sonne a Courtnoll: and those dunghill drudges ware so proud, that they will presume to weare on their feete, what Kings haue worne on their heads. A Clownes sonne must be clapt in a Velvet pantophle, and a Velvet Breech, though the presumptuous Asse bee drown'd in the Mercers Booke, and make a conuey of all his Lands to the Vsurer for commodities: yea, the Lop must goe like a Gallant for a while, although at last in his age he beg. But indeed, such pong Youths, when the Broker hath blest them with Saint Needams crosse, fall then to privy lifts, and cosenages: and when their credit is vtterly crackt, they practise some bad shift, and so come to a shamefull end.

Lastly, whereas thou saist thou art a severe sensor to punish sins, as auditere as Cato, to correct vice, of truth I hold thee so in penall Statutes when thou hast begged the forfeit of the Prince: but such correction is open extortion, and oppression of the poore, nor can I compare it better P. Velvet breech, then to the Wolfe chastising the Lambe, for disturbing the Fountaine, or the Diuell casting forth Diuels through the power of Belzebub. And thus much, courteous Sir, I haue said, to display the follies of mine Aduersary, e to shew the right of mine owne interest. Why, then quoth I, if you haue both said, it resteth but that we had some to empanel vpon a Jury, and then, no doubt, but the verdict would soone be giuen on the one side. As thus I was talking to them, I might see comming downe the Hill a Braue dapper Dicke, quaintly attired in Velvet, and Sattin, and a Cloake of cloth rash, with a Cambricke ruffe as smoothly set, and he as neatly spunged, as if he had beene a

Bride-

Bridegroome: onely I gest by his pase a farre off, he should bee a Taylor: his head was holden up so pert, and his legges shackle ham'd, as if his knees had beene laced to his Thighes with points. Comming more néere indéed, I spied a Taylors Morice pike on his brest, a Spanish néedle, and then I fitted my Salutations, not to his sutes, but to his trade, and incountred him by a thread-bare courtesie, as if I had not knowne him, and asked him of what occupation he was? A Taylor, quoth he. Marry then, my friend, quoth I, you are the more welcome; for heere is a great quarrell growne betwixt Veluet breeches, and Cloth breeches, for their prerogatiue in England: the matter is growne to an issue, there must a Iury be empannelled: and I would desire and intreat you to bee one of the Quest.

Not so, quoth Cloth Breeches, I chalenge him. And why quoth I? What reason haue you? doth hee not make them both? Yes, quoth he, but his gaines is not alike: alas, by me he getteth small, onely hee is paid for his workmanship, vnlesse by misfortune his sheeres slip awry, and then his Vailes is but a shred of home-spun cloth, whereas in making of Veluet breeches, where there is required Silke, Lace, cloth of Gold, of Siluer, and such costly stuffe, to welt, guard, whip, stitch, edge, face, and draw out, that the Vailes of one Veluet breech, is more then twenty paire of mine. I hope there is no Taylor so precise, but he can play the Cooke, and licke his owne fingers: though he looke vp to Heauen, yet hee can cast large shreads of such rich stuffe into Hell vnder his shop-boord. Beside, he sets downe like the Clarke of the Checke, a large Bill of reckonings, which for he keepes long in his pocket, he so powders for stinking, that the yong vpstart that needs it, feeles it salt in his stomake a moneth after. Beside, Sir, Veluet breeches hath aduanst him: for whereas in my time he was counted but goodman Tailor, now he is grown since Veluet bréeches came in, to be called a Marchant or Gentleman Marchant Taylor, giuing Armes, & the Holy Lamb in his creast; where before he had no other cognizance, but a plaine Spanish Needle, with a Welsh cricket on the top: sith then his gaine is so great, and his honour so aduanc't by Veluet bréeches, I will not trust his conscience, nor shall hee come vpon my Iury.

Indeed you haue some reason, quoth I, but perhaps the Taylor doth this vpon meere deuotion, to punish pride: and hauing no other authoritie, nor meane, thinkes it best to pinch them by the purse, and make them pay well, as to aske them twice so much like Lace, and other stuffe, as would suffice, and yet to ouerreach my yong Master with a Bill of reckonings, that will make him scratch where it itcheth not. Herein I hold the Taylor for a necessary member, to teach yong nouices the way to weeping crosse: that when they haue wasted what their fathers left them by pride, they may grow sparing and humble by inherred pouerty: and by this reason the Taylor after his fashion exalteth the poore, and pulleth downe the proud: for of a wealthy Esquires sonne, hee makes a threedbare Begger: and of a sorrowfull Taylor, hee sets vp an Vpstart scurvy Gentleman. Yet seeing you haue made a reasonable challenge to him, the Taylor shall be none of the Quest.

As I bad him stand by, there was comming along the Vally towards vs, a square set fellow well fed, and as briskly apparelled, in a black Taffata doublet, and a spruce Leather Jerkin, with Christall buttons, a cloake fac't afore with Velvet, and a Country Cap of the finest wooll: his face something Ruby blush, cherry-chocked, like a shred of Scarlet, or a little darker, like the Lees of old Claret Wine: a nose-autem nose, purpled preciously with Pearle & Stone, like a counterfet worme, and betweene the filthy rennicall of his bloudshotten snowt, there appeared small holes, whereat wormes heads pepped, as if they meant by their appearance to preach and shew the antiquitie and ancientrie of his house.

This fiery fac't Churle had vpon his fingers as many gold rings as would furnish a Goldsmiths shop, or beseeme a Pandor of long profession to weare. Wondring what companion this should be, I inquired of what occupation. Marry Sir, quoth he, a Broker: why doe you aske, haue you any patrones at my house? No, quoth I, nor by the help of God neuer will haue: but the reason is, to haue you vpon a Jury. At this word, before I could enter my discourse vnto him, Velvet breeches start vp, and sweare he should be none of the Quest, for he would challenge him. And why, quoth I, what know you by him? This base Churle is one of the moths of the

Common-wealth: beſide, hee is a ſpoile of yong Gentlemen, a bloud-ſucker of the poore, as thirſty as a Horſe-leach, that will neuer leaue drinking while he burſt: A knaue that hath intereſt in the Leaſes of forty Bawdy-houſes, a receiuer for Lifts, and a diſhonourable ſupporter for Cutpurſes. To conclude, he was gotten by an Incubus, a Hée Diuell, and brought forth by an ouerworne refuſe, that had ſpent her youth vnder the ruines of Bowbies barne.

O monſtrous inuectiue, quoth I, what reaſon haue ye to be thus bitter againſt him? Oh the villaine, quoth he, is the Diuels Factor, ſent from hell to torment yong Gentlemen vpon earth: he hath fetcht me ouer in his time, onely in pawnes, in ten thouſand li. in gold. Suppoſe that Gentlemen through their liberall minds may want that I need, money: let me come to him with a pawn worth ten pound, he will not lend vpon it aboue three pound, and he will haue a Bill of ſale, and twelue pence in the pound for euery moneth, ſo that it comes to ſixteene pence, ſith the Bill muſt monethly be renued: and if you breake but your day ſet downe in the bill of ſale, your pawne is loſt, as full bought and ſold, you turned out of your goods, and he an vnconſcionable gainer. Suppoſe the beſt, you keepe your day, yet paying ſixteene pence a moneth for twenty ſhillings, you pay as good for the lone as foureſcore in the hundred, is not this monſtrous exacting vpon Gentlemen? Beſide, the knaue will be diligently attending and waiting at dicing houſes where we are at play, and there he is ready to lend the loſer money vpon Rings, and Chaines, apparell, or any other good pawne: but the poore Gentleman paies ſo deare for the Lauender it is laid vp in, that if it lye long at a Brokers houſe, he ſéemes to buy his apparell twice. Nay, this worme-eaten wretch hath deeper pit-fals yet to trap youth in. For he being acquainted with a yong Gentleman of faire liuing, in iſſue of good parents, or aſſured poſſibilitie, ſoothes him in his monſtrous expences, and ſayes, hee carries the minde of a Gentleman, promiſing if he want, he ſhall not lacke for a hundred pound or two, if the Gentleman need. Then hath my Broker an Vſurer at hand, as ill as himſelfe, and he brings the money, but they tye the poore ſoule in ſuch Darbies bands, what with receiuing ill Commodities, and forfeitures vpon the band,

that

that they dub him Sir Iohn had land before they leaue him, and share like Woolues the poore nouices wealth betwixt them as a prey. He is (Sir) to be briefe, a bawdie Bawdy Pizer, good for none but himselfe, and his trugge: a Carle that hath a filthy carkase without a conscience; a body of a man, wherein an infernall spirit, in stead of a soule, doth inhabit: the scum of the seuen deadly sinnes, an enemy to all good minds, a deuourer of yong Gentlemen, and to conclude, my mortall enemy, and therfore admit of my challenge, and let him be none of the Iury. Truely (quoth Cloth breeches) and I am willing he should be discarded too: for were not bad Brokers (I will not condemne all) there would be lesse filching, and fewer Theeues, for they receiue all is brought them, and buy that for a Crowne, that is worth twenty shillings: desire of gaine bindes their conscience, and they care not how it be come by, so they buy it cheape. Beside, they extort vpon the poore that are inforced through extreme want to pawne their cloathes and houshold stuffe, their Pewter and Brasse, and if the poore soules that labour hard, misse but a day, the base-minded Broker takes the forfeit, without remorse, or pitie: It was not so in Diebus illis. But thou proud Upstart Velnet breeches hast learn'd all Englishmen their villany, and all to maintaine thy bravery: yea, I haue knowne of late when a poore woman laid a siluer Thimble that was sent her from her friends for a token to pawne for sixpence, and the Broker made her pay a halfepenny a weeke for it, which comes to two shillings a yeare, for sixpence: sith then his conscience is so bad, let him be shuffled out amongst the Knaues, for a discarded Card. Content, quoth I, and bad the Broker stand backe, when there were euen at my heeles three in a cluster, pert youths all, and neatly tired: I questioned them what they were: and the one said he was a Barber, the other a Surgeon, & the third an Apothecary. How like you of these (qd. I) shall they be of your Iury? Of the Iury, qd. Cloth breeches, neuer a one by my consent, for I challenge them all. Your reason qd. I, and then you shall haue my verdict. Marry (qd. Cloth breeches) first to the Barber, he cannot be but a partiall man on Velnet breeches side, sith he gets more by one time dressing of him, then by ten times dressing of me: I come plaine to be pold, and to haue my beard cut, and pay him two pence: Velnet Breeches hee sits

downe in the chaire wrapt in fine cloathes, as though the Barber were about to make him a footecloth for the vicar of Saint Fooles: then beginnes he to take his Sissors in his hand, and his Combe, and so to snap with them, as if he meant to giue a warning to all the Lice in his nitty locks for to prepare themselues, for the day of their destruction was at hand: then comes hee out with his fustian eloquence, and making a low conge, saith, Sir, will you haue your worships haire cut after the Italian maner, short & round, and then trounst with the curling yrons, to make it looke like a halfe-moone in a Skill? or like a Spaniard, long at the eares, and curled like to the two ends of an old cast Perriwig? or will you be Frenchefied with a loue-lock downe to your shoulders, wherein you may weare your mistresse fauour? the English cut is base, and Gentlemen scorne it, nouelty is dainty: speake the word, Sir, my Sissors are ready to execute your Worships will. His head being once dressed, which requires in combing and rubbing some two houres, hee comes to the Washon: then being curiously washt with no worse then a Camphire bal, he descends as low as his beard, and asketh whether he please to be shauen or no? whether he will haue his peake cut short and sharpe, amiable like an Inamorato, or broad-pendant like a Spade, to be terrible like a Warrior & a Soldano: whether he wil haue his crates cut low like a Juniper bush, or his Suberches taken away with a Razor? if it be his pleasure to haue his appendices primde, or his Mouchaches fostred, to turne about his eares like the branches of a Vine, or cut downe to the lip with the Italian lash, to make him looke like a halfe-faced bauby in Braile? These quaint, tearmes, Barber you great Master Velvet breeches withall, and at euery word a snap with your Sissors and a cringe with your knee: whereas when you come to poore Cloth breeches, you either cut his beard at your owne pleasure, or else in disdaine aske him if he will be trim'd with Chriss cut, round like the halfe of a holland Cheese, mocking both Christ and vs: for this your knauery my wil is you shall be none of the Jury. For you, master Surgeon, the statutes of England exempt you from being of any quest, and beleeue, alas, I seldome fall into your hands as being quiet and making no brawles to haue wounds, as swartrutting Velvet breeches doth, neither do I frequent whorehouses to catch the Parbles, and so to

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grow your Patient: I know you not, and therefore I appeale to the Statute, you shall haue nothing to do with my matter. And for you, Master Apoticary, alas, I looke not once in seuen yeere into your shop, without it be to buy a penny worth of worme seed to giue my child to drinke, or a little Treacle to drive out the Measels, or perhaps some drygs or powders to make my sick horse a drench withall: but for my selfe, if I be ill at ease, I take Kitchin Physicke, I make my wife my Doctor, and my Garden my Apoticaries shop, whereas queasie M. Velvet breeches cannot haue a fart awry, but he must haue his Purgations, Pils, and Glisters, or euacuate by electuaries: he must, if the least spot of morphew come on his face, haue his oyle of Tartar, his Lac virginis, his camphire dissolued in verivice, to make the foole as faire forsooth, as if hee were to play Maidmarian in a May-game or morris-dance: tush, hee cannot digest his meat without Conserues, nor end his meale without Suckats, nor (shall I speake plainely) please the trugge his mistresse without he goe to the Apothecaries, for Eringion, Oleum formicarum alatarum, & aqua mirabilis of ten pound a pint, if master Velvet breeches with drinking these drugs, hap to haue a stinking breath, then forsooth the Apothecary must play the Perfumer to make it sweete: nay what is it about him that he blameth not nature for framing, and formeth it anew by art, and in all this who but mounsier the Apothecary? therefore, good Sir (quoth he) seeing you haue taken vpon you to be trier for the challenges, let those three as partiall companions be packing.

Why (quoth I) seeing you haue yelded such reason of refusall, let them stand by: presently looking about for more, comes stalking downe an aged graue Sir, in a black Velvet coat, and a black Cloth Gowne, welted and faced, and after him. as I suppose, foure seruingmen, the most ilfauoured knaues, me thought, that euer I saw, one of them had on a Buffe leather Jerken, all greasie before with the droppings of Beere, that fell from his Beard, and by his side, a Skeine like a Brewers bung knife, and muffled hee was in a cloke turn'd ouer his nose, as though he had béene ashamed to shew his face. The second had a belly like a Buckingtub, and a three-bare blacke coat vnbuttoned before vpon the brest, whereon the map of drunkennesse was drawne, with the bawdy and bowsie excrements

that drept from his filthy leaking mouth. The third was a long leane old flauering flangrill, with a Brasill staffe in the one hand, & a Whip-cord in the other, so purblind, that he had like to haue stumbled vpon the company before he saw them. The fourth was a fat chuffe, with a sowre looke, in a black cloke faced with Taffata, and by his side a great side Pouch like a Faulkner, for their faces al foure seemed to be brethren, they were so bumbasted with the flocks of strong beere, and lined with the lees of old Sacke, that they lookt like foure blowne bladders painted ouer with red Oaker, or washt ouer with the suds of an old stale dye. All these, as well the master as the following mates, would haue past away, but that I stept before them, and enquired first of the formost what he was? Sarry, quoth he, a Lawyer. Then Sir, quoth I, we haue a matter in controuersie that requires counsell, and you are the more welcome. What is it, quoth he? Sarry, said I, whether Cloth breeches or Veluet breeches are of more worth? and which of them hath the best title to bee resident in England? At this, the Lawyer smiled: and Velust breeches stepping forth, tooke acquaintance of him, and commending his honesty, said, there could not bee a man of better indifferency of the jury: whē cloth breeches stepping in, (woze, he marnelled he was not so well as the Surgion exempted by act of Parliment from being of any quest, sith as the Surgion was without pitty, so he was without conscience, and therevpon inferd his challenge, saying, the Lawyer was neuer friend to Cloth breeches, for when lowlinesse, neighbourhod, and hospitality lined in England, Westminster Hall was a dining chamber, not a den of controuersies, when the King himselfe was content to kep his Saint Georges day in a plain paire of Kersie Hose, when the Duke, Earle, Lord, Knight, Gentleman and Esquire, aimed at vertue, not pride, and woze such Breeches as was spun in his house, then the Lawyer was a simple man, and in the highest degree was but a bare Scriuener, except Judges of the Land, which toke in hand serious matters, as treasons, murthers, felonies, & such capitall offences, but seldome was there any pleas put in, before that proud Upstart Velust breeches, for his maintenance inuented strange controuersies, and since hee began to dominaire in England, he hath bred such a proud busie couetous & in-[illegible] vpon euery mans head, that Lawyers are grown

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to be one of the chiefe limbs of the common-wealth: for they do nothing de lana caprina rixare, goe to Law if a Hen doe but scrape in his orchard, but howsoeuer right be, might carries away the verdict: if a poore man sue a Gentleman, why he shootes vp to the sky, and the arrow fals on his owne head, howsoeuer the cause goe, the weakest is thrust to the wall: Lawyers are troubled with the heat of the Liuer, which makes the palmes of their hands so hot, that they cannot be cool'd, vnlesse they be rub'd with the eyle of Angels: but the poore man that giues but his bare fee, or perhaps pleads in forma pauperis, he hunteth for Hares with a Taber, and gropeth in the darke to finde a Needle in a bottle of hay: tush, these Lawyers haue such delatory and forraine pleas, such dozmers, such quibs and quiddits, that beggering their clients, they purchase to themselues whole Lordships: it boteth not men to discourse their little conscience, and great extortion, onely suffice they be not so rich as they be bad, and yet they be but too wealthy. I inueigh not against law, nor honest Lawyers, for there be some well qualified, but against extorting Ambodexters that wring the purse: and because I know not whether this be such a one, or no, I challenge him not to be of my Jury. Why, then (quoth I) his Worship may depart: and then I questioned what he in the Buffe Jerkin was? Sarry (quoth he) I am a Seriant. He had no sooner said so, but Veluet breeches leapt back, and drawing his Rapier, swore hee did not only challenge him for his Jury, but protested if he strid one foote toward him, he would make him eate a piece of his Poniard. And what is the reason (quoth I) that there is such mortall hatred betwixt you and the Seriant? O Sir (quoth Veluet breeches) search him, and I warrant you, the knaue hath precept vpon precept to arrest me, hath worne his mace smooth, with onely clapping it vpon my shoulder, he hath had me vnder coram so often: oh the reprobate is the Vsurers executioner to bring such Gentlemen to Limbo, as he hath ouerthrowne with his base brokage and bad commodities: and as you see him a fat knaue with a foggie face, wherein a cup of old sack hath set a seale, to marke the bowsie drunkard to die of the dropsie: so his conscience is consumed, and his heart robd of all remorse and pitty, that for money he will betray his owne father, for will a cormorant but see him to arrest a young Gentleman, the Rake-

hell

hell will be ſo eager to catch him, as a dogge to take a Beare by the eares in Paris Garden, and when he hath laid hold vpon him, hee vſeth him as courteouſly as a Butchers Curre would doe an Ore-chéeke when he is hungry: if he ſee the Gentleman hath money in his purſe, then ſtraight with a cap and knée he carries him to the Tauerne, and bids him ſend for ſome of his friends to baile him: but firſt he couenants to haue ſome brace of Angels for his paines, and beſides he cals in for Wine as greédily as if the knaues mother had bin brocht againſt a Hogshead when he was begotten: but ſuppoſe the Gentleman wants pence, he will either haue a pawne, or elſe drag him to the Counter, without reſpect of manhood, or honeſty. I ſhould ſpend the whole day with diſplaying his villanies: therefore briefely let this ſuffice, he was neuer made for any goodnes, but his ſlouenly carkaſe was fram'd by the Diuell, of the rotten carrion of a Woolfe, and his ſoule of an Vſurers damned ghoſt, turn'd out of hell, into his body, to doe monſtrous wickednes againe vpon the earth, ſo that he ſhall be none of my Jury, neither ſhall he come neerer me then the length of my Rapier will ſuffer him.

Indéed, quoth Cloth bréeches, generally Sergeants be bad, but there be amongſt them ſome honeſt men, that will doe their duties with lawfull fauour: for, to ſay truth, if Sergeants were not, how ſhould men come by their debts? marry they are ſo cruell in their office, that if they arreſt a poore man, they will not ſuffer him (if he hath not money) to ſtay a quarter of an houre to talke with his Creditor, although perhaps at the méeting they might take compoſition; but onely to the Counter with him, vnleſſe he will lay his Pewter, Braſſe, Couerlets, Shéetes, or ſuch houſhold-ſtuffe, to them for pawne of paiment of ſome copne for their ſtaying: therefore let him depart out of the place, for his roome is better then his company. Well then, quoth I, what ſay you to theſe thée? and with that I queſtioned their names: the one ſaid he was a Sumner, the other a Gaoler, and the third an Informer. Ieſus bleſſe me (quoth Cloth bréeches) what a Ging was heere gathered together? no doubt hell is broke looſe, and the Diuell meanes to kéepe Holiday: I make challenge againſt them all, as againſt worſe men then thoſe that gaue euidence againſt Chriſt: for the Sumner, is

boates

hootes me to say little more against him, then Chaucer did in his Canturbury Tales, who said he was a knaue, a Bither, & a Bawd: but leauing that authoritie, although it bee authenticall, yet thus much I can say of my selfe, that these drunken drowsie sonnes goe a tobting abroad (as they themselues tearme it) which is to heare if any man hath got his maid with child, or playes the goodfellow with his neighbours wife: if he finde a hole in any mans coat that is of wealth, then he hath his peremptorie citation ready to cite him vnto the Archdeacons, or Officials Court, there to appeare and abide the shame and penalty of the Law: the man perhaps in good credit with his neighbours, loth to bring his name in question, greaseth the Sumner in the fist, and then he wipes him out of the booke, and suffers him to get twenty with child, so he keepe him warme in the hand. He hath a saying to wanton wiues, and they are his good Dames, and as long as they feed him with Cheese, Bacon, Capons, and such odde reuersions, they are honest: and be they neuer so bad, he sweares to the Officiall, complaints are made vpon enuy, & the women are of good behauiour. Tush, what bawdry is it he will not suffer, so he may haue money, and good cheere? and if hee like the Wench well, a snatch himselfe, for they know all the Whores in a country, are as lecherous companions as may be. To be briefe, the Sumner liues vpon sins of people, & out of harlotry gets he al his commodities. As for the Gaoler, although I haue beene little troubled in prison, to haue experience of his knauery: yet haue I heard the poore prisoners complaine how cruell they be to them, extorting with extraordinary fees, selling a double curtell (as they call it) with a double ingge of beere for two pence, which containes not aboue a pint and a halfe. Let a poore man be arrested into one of the Counters, though he but set his foote in them but halfe an houre, he shall be almost at an Angels charge: what with garnish, trolling, and wiping out of the booke, turning the key, paying the Chamberlaine, seeing for his Iury, and twenty such extortions, inuented by themselues, and not allowed by any Statute. God bleese mee, Gaoler from your Hen-houses, as I will keepe you from comming in my Quest. And to you, Mr. Informer, you that looke like a ciuill Cittizen, or some handsome Petty-fogger of the Law: although your crimson nose bewrayes you can sup off a coole cup of Sacke

without any chewing, yet haue you as much knauery in your side Pouch there, as would brèd the confusion of forty honest men. It may be, Sir, that you marueil why I exclaime against the Informer, sith he is a most necessary member in the common Wealth, and is highly to the Princes aduantage for the benefit of penall Statutes and other abuses, whereof he giueth speciall intelligence? To wipe out this doubt, I speake not against the Office, but the Officer, against such as abuse Law when they should vse it, and such a one I gesse this fellow to be, by the Carnation tincture of his ruby nose. Therefore let vs search his bagge, and sée what trash you shall find in it: with that, although the Informer were very loth, yet we pluckt out the stuffing of his Pouch, and in it was found a hundred and odde Writs: Whereat I wondred: and Cloth breeches smiling bade me read the Labels, and the parties names, and then examine the Informer how many of them he knew, and wherein they had offended. I followed his counsell, and of all he knew but three, neither could he tell what they had done amisse to be arrested, and brought in question.

Clothbréeches séeing me stand in a maze, began thus to resolue me in my doubt. Perhaps, qd. he, you marueil, why the Informer hath all these Writs, and knowes neither the parties, nor can obiect any offence to them: To this I answer: that it being a long vacation, he learned in the rowle all those mens names, & that they were men of indifferent wealth: Now meanes he to goe abroad, and search them out and arrest them, and though they know not wherin, or for what cause they should be troubled, yet rather then they will come vp to London and spend their mony, they will bestow some odde Angell vpon master Informer, & so sit at home in quiet. But suppose some be so stubborne as to stand to the tryall, yet can this cunning knaue declare a Tamquam against them, so that though they be cléered, yet can they haue no recompence at all, for that he doth it in the Courts behalfe. I will not vnfold all his vallanies, but he is an abuser of good lawes, & a very knaue, and so let him be with his fellowes. I both wondred & laught to heare Cloth bréeches make this discourse, when I saw two in the Vally together by the eares, the one in leather, the other as blacke as the Diuell: I stept to them to part the fray, and questioned what they were, and wherefore they brawled: Parry, quoth

quoth hee, that looke like Lucifer, Though I am black, I am not the Diuell, but indeede a Collier of Croyden, and one, Sir, that haue sold many a man a false sacke of coales, that both wanted measure, and was halfe full of dust and drosse. Indeed I haue beene a Lieger in my time in London, and haue played many madde prankes: for which cause, you may apparantly see, I am made a curtall: for the Pillory (in the sight of a great many good and sufficient witnesses) hath eaten off both my eares: and now, Sir, this Ropemaker haunteth me heere with his Halters. I gesse him to be some euill spirit, that in the likenes of a man, would since I haue past the Pillory, perswade mee to hang my selfe for my old offences: and therefore sith I cannot blesse mee from him with Nomine Patris, I lay Spiritus Sanctus about his shoulders with a good Crab-tree cudgell, that he may get out of my company.

The Ropemaker replyed, that honestly iourneying by the way, hee acquainted himselfe with the Collier, and for no other cause pretended. Honest with the Diuell (quoth the Collier?) how can hee be honest, whose mother I gesse was a Witch? For I haue heard them say, that Witches say their prayers backward, and so doth the Ropemaker earne his liuing by going backward, and the knaues chiefe liuing is by making fatall instruments, as halters and ropes, which diuers desperate men hang themselues with. Well (quoth I) what say you to these, shall they bee on the Iury? Veluet breeches said nothing, but Cloth breeches said, In the Ropemaker he found no great falsehood in him, therfore hee was willing he should be one: but for the Collier, hee thought it necessary, that as he came, so he should depart: so then I bade the Ropemaker stand by till more came, which was not long: For there came three in a cluster. As soone as they drew nie, I spyed one, a fat churle with a side russet coat to his knee, and his hands all to tanned with shifting his Muse, yet would I not take notice what they were, but questioned with them of their seuerall occupations. Marry quoth the first, I am a Tanner, the second a Shoomaker, and the third a Currier: then turning to the Plaintife and Defendant, I asked them if they would allow of those parties. No, by my faith, quoth Cloth breeches, I make challenge vnto them all, and I will yeeld reasons of import against them: the first

to you, Master Tanner, Are you a man worthy to be of a Jury, when your conscience cares not to wrong the whole Commonwealth? you respect not publike commoditie, but private gaines: not to benefit your neighbour, but for to make the proud prince your sonne an Upstart Gentleman: and because you would marry your Daughter, at the least to an Esquire, that she may if it be possible, be a Gentlewoman: and how comes this to passe? By your Tanfats forsooth. For, whereas by the ancient lawes and Statutes of England, you should let a Hide lye in the Duse, at the least nine moneths, you can make good Leather of it before three moneths, you haue your Doues dung, your Marle, your Athen barke, and a thousand things more, to bring on your Leather apace, that it is so badly Tanned, that when it comes to the wearing, then it fleetes away like a piece of browne paper: And whereas your backs, of all other, should be the best tanned; you bring them so full of horn to the market, that did you not grease the Sealers of Leaden-hal throughly in the fist, they should neuer be sealed, but turned away, and made forfeit by the Statute. I cannot at large lay open your subtill practices to beguile the poore comminalty with bad leather. But let this suffice, you leaue no villany vnsought, to bring the blockhead your sonne to goe afore the Clowne his father, trimly trickt vp in a paire of Velvet breeches.

Now, master Currier, to your coosenage, you cannot bee content only to burne the Leather you dresse, for fault of liquour, because you would make the Shoomaker pay well, and you put in little stuffe: and beside, when as in Backs you should only put in Tallow hard and good, you put in soft Kitchin stuffe mixt, and so make the good and well tanned Leather by your villany to fleete and waste away, but also you grow to be an extorting knaue, and a forestaller of the Market, for you will buy Leather, Sides, Backs, and Calue skinnes, and sell them to the poore Shoomakers at an vnreasonable rate, by your false, retailing, getting infinite goods by that excessiue price: both vndoing the poore Shoomaker, and causing vs that wee pay extremely for Shoors. For if the Currier bought not Leather by the whole of the Tanner, the Shoomaker might haue it at a more reasonable price: but the Shoomaker being poore, is not perhaps able to deale with a dicker of Hides, nor perhaps

haps with a couple of Backs, and the Tanner will not truſt him: then the extorting and coozening Currier comes vp with this, I will lend you foz a day: and ſo pincheth him that hee is ſcarſe able to finde his childzen bzead. But well hath the Prince and the Honozable Lozds of the priuy Councell prouided by act of Parliament, that no Currier ſhall buy Leather, either Backes oz Hides of the Tanner, ſo to bzidle the extozting and fozeſtalling coozenage, but craftilier and ſubtilier hath the knaue Currier croſſ-bitten the Statute, in that he deales thus with the Tanner, he makes him hold his Leather vnreaſonably to the Shoomaker, and ſo when he cannot ſell it, he layes it vp in the Curriers houſe, vnder a colour, whereas indéed he hath ſold it him. Suppoſe this ſhift be ſpyed and preuented: then compoundeth he with ſome knaue Shoomaker, ſome baſe Rakehell without a conſcience, that neither reſpecteth God, the Common wealth, noz his Company, and fozſooth he is halfe with the Currier, who letteth him haue ſome hundzed marke to lay out foz Leather euery month, whereas he ſpends not in his ſhop a hundzed markes wozth in a yeere: ſo the Shoomaker buies it to abuſe the Statute, foz the Currier, and the Currier by that meanes vndweth the other Shoomakers: thus two crafty knaues are met, and they néede no Bzoker.

Now to you, Gentle craft, you maſter Shoomakers: you can put in the inner ſole of a thin Calues skin, when as the Shoo is a neates leather Shoo, which you know is cleane contrary both to conſcience and the Statute. Beſide, you will ioyne a Neates leather Vampey to a Calues leather Heele: is not heere good ſtuffe, maſter Shoomaker? Well, foz your knauery, you ſhall haue thoſe curſes which belong vnto your Craft: you ſhall be light-footed to trauell farre, light-witted, vpon euery ſmall occaſion to giue your maſters the bagge: you ſhall be moſt of you vnthzifts, and almoſt all perfect good fellowes. Beſide, I remember a merry ieſt, how Mercury bzought you to a dangerous diſeaſe, foz he requeſted a boone foz you, which fell out to your great diſaduantage: and to recreate vs, beare a little, Gentle craft, what fell to your trade by that winged God. As it happened on a time, that Iupiter and Mercury trauelling together vpon earth, Mercury was wonderfully hungry and had no money in his purſe to buy him any foode, and at laſt to his

Meat comfort hee spyed where a company of Taylors were at Dinner with buttered Pease, eating their Pease with their Needles points one by one: Mercury came to them, and asked them his almes, they proudly bade him sit downe and doe as he saw they did, and with that delivered him a Needle. The poore God being pacing hungry, could not content his maw with eating one by one, but turned the eye of his Needle, and eate two or three together. Which the Taylors seeing, they start up, and said: What fellow, a Shouell and Spade, to butter'd Pease? hast thou no more manners? Get out of our company; and so they sent him packing with many strokes. Mercury comming backe, Iupiter demanded of him what newes? and he told him how churlishly hee was vsed amongst the Taylors. Well, wandring on further, Mercury espied where a company of Shoomakers were at Dinner with powdred Beefe and Brewesse: going to them before he could aske them any almes, they said, Welcome good fellow, what is thy stomacke vp? wilt thou doe as we doe, and taste of Beefe? Mercury thanked them, and sate downe and eate his belly full, and dranke well of double Beere, and when hee had done went home to his Master. As soone as he came, Iupiter asked him what newes? and he said: I haue lighted amongst a crue of Shoomakers, the best fellowes that euer I met withall, they haue frankeled feede me without grudging, and therefore grant mee a boone for them. Aske what thou wilt, Mercury, quoth he, and it shall bee done. Why then quoth he, grant that for this good turne they haue done mee, they may euer spend a groat afore they can earne two pence. It shall be granted, quoth he. Mercury as soone as Iupiter had said the word, hee bethought himselfe, and said: Nay, but that they may earne a groat afore they spend two pence, for my tongue slipt at the first. Well, Mercury, quoth hee, it cannot be recal'd, the first wish must stand: and hereof by Mercuries boone it grew, that all of the Gentle-craft are such good fellowes, and spendthrifts. But howsoeuer, none of those three, neither Shoomaker, Tanner, nor Currier, shall be accepted to bee of the Iury.

As they went away with fleas in their eares, being thus taunted by Cloth breeches, we might see where there came a troupe of ancient

ant Gentlemen, with their Seruingmen attending vpon them. The formost was a great old man, with a white beard, all in Russet, and a faire blacke cloake on his backe, and attending on him hee had some fiue men: their cognizance, as I remember, was a Peacocke without a tayle: the other two that accompanied him, seemed meaner then himselfe: but yet Gentlemen of good Worship: whereupon I went towards them, and saluted them, and was so bold as to question what they were, and of their businesse.

The most ancientest answered hee was a Knight, and those two his neighbours: the one an Esquire, the other a Gentleman, and that they haue no vrgent affaires, but onely to walke abroad to take the fresh ayre. Then did I shew them both Cloth breeches, and Velvet breeches, and told them the controuersie, and desired their ayde to be vpon the Iury. They smiling answered, They were content: and so did Cloth breaches seeme to reioyce, that such honest ancient English Gentlemen should be tryers of this Title. But Velvet breeches scorning, kept in, and made challenge to them all. I demanded the reason why he should refuse Gentlemen of so good calling? And he made me this answere: Why, you may gesse the inward minde, by the outward apparell: and see how he is addicted by the homely robes hee is suted in. Why, this Knight is mortall enemy to pride, and so to me: he regardeth hospitalitie, & aimeth at honour, with relieuing the poore: you may see although his lands and reuenues be great, and he able to maintaine himselfe in great bravery, yet hee is content with home-spun cloth, and scorneth the pride that is vsed now adaies amongst yong Upstarts: he holdeth not the worth of his Gentry to be and consist in Velvet breeches, but valueth true fame by the report of the common sort, who praise him for his vertue, Iustice, Liberality, housekeeping and almes deeds, Vox populi, vox Dei: his Tenants and Farmers would if it might be possible, make him immortall with their prayers, and praises. He raiseth not rent, racketh no lands, taketh no incumbs, imposeth no mercilesse fines, enuies not another, buyeth no house ouer his neighbours head: but respecteth his country, and the commoditie thereof, as deare as his life. He regardeth more to haue the needy feede, to haue his board garnished with full platters, then to famous himselfe with excessiue

furniture in apparell. Since then he scorneth pride, he must of force proclaime himselfe mine enemy: and therefore hee shall be none of my Jury, and such as himselfe I geffe the Squire, and the Gentleman, and therefore I challenge them all. Why, quoth I, this is strange, that a man should be drawne from a Quest, for his godlines. If men for Vertue be challenged, whom shall we have upon the Jury? Your objection helpes not, Master Velvet breeches: For if he be a man of so godly disposition, hee will neither speake for feare or favour, he will regard neither the riches of the one, nor the plaine poverty of the other: wherefore, sith you have made me a tryer, I allow them all three to be of the Jury: and so I requested them to sit downe till our Jury was full, which they courteously did, although Velvet breeches frown'd at it. When I looking for more, saw where there came a troope of men in apparell seeming poore honest Citizens, in all they were eight. I demanded of them what they were, and whither they were going. One of them that seemed the wealthiest, who was in a furred Jacket, made answere, that they were all friends, going to the buriall of a neighbour of theirs, that yesternight died, and if it would doe mee any pleasure to heare their names, they were not so dainty but that they would tell them: and so then he began to tell me, that by his Art hee was a Skinner, the second said he was a Joyner, the third was a Sadler, the fourth a Waterman, the fift was a Cutler, the first was a Bellows mender, the seventh a Plaisterer, and the eight a Printer. In good time, quoth I, it is commendable when neighbours love so well together: but if your speed be not overmuch, I must request you to be of a Jury: so I discours'd unto them the controversie betweene Cloth breeches, and Velvet breeches, and to what issue it must grow by a verdict: they seemed all content, and I turned to the Plaintiffe, and Defendant, and asked if they would make challenge to any of these? I scorne, quoth Velvet breeches, to make any great objection against them, sith they bee mechanicall men, and I almost hold them indifferent: for this I know, they get as much and more by me, then by him. The Skinner I use for Furres, whereas this base Cloth breeches hath scarce a gowne faced once in his life: the Sadler, for costly imbroidered Saddles: the Joyner for ceeling my house: the Cutler for gilt Rapiers: the

Water-

Waterman I vse continually, ten times for his once, and so likewise the Plaisterer: for the Vellour-mender, alas, poore snake, I know him not: for the Printer, assuredly, I thinke I am some ten pound in his debt for bookes, so that for my part let them all passe. And for me (quoth Cloth breeches) but yet a little to put them in remembrance of their follies, let me haue a bout with them all: and first with you, master Skinner, to whom I can say little, but only this, that whereas you should only put the backs of skins into facing, you taw the wombs, and so deceiue the buier: besides, if you haue some fantastike skin brought you not worth two pence, with some strange spots, though it be of a Leopard, you will sweare it is a most precious skin, and came from Muſco, or the furthest part of Calabria. The Saddler he stuffes his Pannels with Straw or Hay, and ouer-glaseth them with Haire, and makes the Leather of them of Horse, or rand Sheepes-skinnes. The Joyner, though an honest man, yet he maketh his ioynts weake, and putteth in sappe in the Mortises, which should be the heart of the Tree, and all to make his stuffe slender. And you, Cutler, you are patron to ruffians & swashbucklers, and will sell them a blade that may be thrust into a bushell, but to a poore man that cannot skil of it, you sel him a sword or rapier new ouerglased, and sweare the blade came either from Turky, or Toledo. Now (maſter Waterman) you will say there is no subtilty in you, for there is none so simple but that knows your fares, & what is due betweene Greenwitch and London, & how you earne your mony painfully with the sweat of your browes: all this is true, but let me whisper one thing in your eare, you will play the good fellow too much if you be wel greased in the fist, for if a yong Gentleman and a prety wench come to you, & say, Waterman, my friend and I meane to go by water, and to be merry a night or two, I care not which way nor whither we go, and therefore where thou thinkest we may haue best lodging, thither carry vs: then off goes your cap, and away they go, to Brainford, or some other place, and then you say, Oſtis, I pray you vse this Gentleman and his wife wel, they are come out of London to take the aire, and meane to be merry here a night or two, & to spend their mony frankly, when God wot they are neither man nor wife, nor perhaps of any acquaintance, before their match made in some bawdy Tauerne; but you know no such matter: & therfore wa-

terman, I pardon you. And for you, Plaſterer and Bellowſ. mender, I paſſe you over, and ſo I doe the Printer too. And therefore I am content they ſhall be all on the Jury. I was glad there were ſo many accepted at once, and hoped that now quickly the Jury would bee full.

Looking about me, ſtraight I might ſée one alone come running as faſt as he could: I wondred what he ſhould be that he made ſuch haſte, and the Skinner told me he was an honeſt man, and one of their company, by his occupation a Bricklayer. Oh (qd. Velvet breeches) a good honeſt ſimple man, he hath béene long in my worke, in building me a ſumptuous houſe. But I challenge him (quoth Clothbréeches) for he is a Juggler. How (qd. I) can it be? ſée, he goeth very homely in leather, and hath his ruler in his hand, & his tyle well at his ſide, & he ſéemeth not as one that were given to ſuch qualities. Yes, (qd. Cloth breeches) he hath this policy, when he maketh a ſtately place all glorious to the eye, and full of faire Chambers and goodly roomes, and about his houſe perhaps ſome three ſcore Chimnies. Yet he can ſo cunningly caſt by his art, that three of them ſhall not ſmoke in the twelvemonth, and ſo ſpoiles her much good Porter and Brick.

Why (quoth I) the fault is not in the workeman, but the houſekéeper: for now adayes men build to pleaſe the eye, not to profit the poore, they vſe no reſt but for themſelves and their houſehold, nor no fire, but a little Court Chimny in their owne Chamber: how can the poore Bricklayer then be blamed, when the niggardneſſe of the Lord and Maſter is the cauſe no more Chimnies doe ſmoke? for would they vſe ancient hoſpitality as their fore-fathers did, and value as lightly of pride as their great Grandfathers, then ſhould you ſee euery Chimny in the houſe ſmoke, and prooue that the poore Artificer had done his part. Why then (qd. Clothbreeches) as you pleaſe, admit him on the queſt. But what be thoſe (qd. Cloth breeches) that come heere ſo ſoberly? I hope they be honeſt men, for they looke very demure. I will inquire ſaid I, and with that ſtepping to them, I demanded their names: and very courteouſly the one ſaid he was a Brewer, the other a Butcher, the third a Baker, & the fourth a Victualer. Hearing what they were, I was glad, geſſing ſith they were ſo honeſt ſubſtantiall men, that they would helpe to

make

make vp the Jury; when Velvet breeches with a grim and sowre countenance gaue them this challenge: I hold it not necessary (quoth hee) that these haue any thing to deale in my cause, sith I am at oddes with them all at least in forty pounds apiece, for this seuen yeere haue I beene indebted vnto them for Bread, Biefe, Beere, and other Victuals: then sith they haue credited me long, and I haue had so little care to pay them, I doubt now they will reuenge themselues, and passe against me in the Verdict. Nay (quoth I) the rather will they hold on your part, for if they be honest wise men (as they seeme to be) they will be carefull of your preferment, seeing the more highly you are aduanst, the more like are they to come by their owne. If therefore you can obiect no other points of dishonesty against them, I see no reason why they should be put by. If you do not (quoth Cloth breeches) then heare me, and I will proue them vnfit to haue any dealings heere, and first for the Butcher: I pray you goodman Kilcalfe, what hanock play you with puffing vp of meate, and blowing with your Pricker as you flay it? haue you not your artificiall knaueries to set out your meate with pricks, and then sweare hee hath more for money then euer you bought: to sell a piece of an old Cow, for a chop of a young Ore, to wash your old meat that hath hung weltring in the shop with new blood, to truffle away an old Calfe, in stead of a young weather: and although you know it is hurtfull, & forbidden by the statutes to flay your hides, skins, backs, with cuts and slashes, to the impouerishing of the poore Shoomaker when he buyes it: yet I pray you how many slaughters doe you make in a poore Calues skin? Oh Butcher, a long Lent be your punishment: for you make no conscience in deceiuing the poore. And you Brewer, that grow to be worth forty thousand pounds by selling of sodden water, what subtilty haue you in making your Beere, to spare the Malt, and put in more of the Hop to make your drink (be Barly neuer so cheape) not a whit the stronger, and yet neuer sell a whit the more measure for money; You can, when you haue taken all ỹ hart of the Mault away, then clap on store of water, 'tis cheape inough, and mash out a tunning of small Beere, that it scoures a mans maw like Rennish wine: in your conscience how many barrels draw you out of a quarter of malt? fie, fie, I conceale your falshood,

leaſt I ſhould bee too broad in ſetting downe your faults. And for you, goodman Baker, you that loue to be ſeen in the open Market place vpon the Pillory, the world cryes out of your wilineſſe, you craue but one deare yeere to make your Daughter a Gentlewoman: you buy your corne at the beſt hand, and yet will not be content to make your bread weight by many ounces: you put in Peſſ, and Salt, to make it heauy, and yet all your policy cannot make it, but you fine for the Pillory. The poore cry out, the rich finde fault, and the Lord Maior, and the Sherifs, like Honorable and Worſhipfull Magiſtrates, euery day walk abroad and weigh your bread, and yet all will not ſerue to make you honeſt men: but were extremitie vſed, and the Statute put in the higheſt degree in practice, you would haue as few eares on your heads, as the Collier. Laſt, to you, Tom Tapſter, that tap your ſmall Cans of Beere to the poore, and yet fill them halfe full of froth, that card your beere (if you ſee your gheſts begin to be drunke) halfe ſmall, and ſtrong: you cannot bee content to pinch them with your ſmall pots, and your Oſtrie Faggots: but haue your trugges, to draw men on to billmy, and to bring cuſtomers to your houſe, where you ſell a ioynt of meat for twelue pence, that coſt you ſcarce ſixe: and if any chance to goe on the ſcore, you ſcore him when he is aſleepe, and ſet vp a groat a day, more then he hath, to finde you drinking pots with your companions. To be ſhort, thou art a Knaue, and I like not of any of the reſt, the way lies before you, and therefore you may bee gone, for you ſhall be none of the Queſt.

I ſmild to ſee Cloth breeches ſo peremptory: when I ſaw fine fat fellowes, all in Damaſke Coats, and Gownes welted with Veluet, very braue, and in great conſultation, as if they were to determine of ſome weighty matter. Drawing neere, I ſaw they were wealthy Citizens: ſo I went, and reuerently ſaluted them, and told them how wee needed their aide, about the appeaſing of a controuerſie: ſhewing them where the Knight, Eſquire, and other ſtayed, till we might finde men to fill vp the Jury: they were contented: but Veluet breeches excepted againſt foure of them, and ſaid, they were none of his friends: that was the Merchant, Goldſmith, Mercer, and Draper. His allegations were theſe, that they were all feathered of one wing, to fetch in yong Gentlemen by com-

commodities, vnder the colour of lending of money. For the Merchant, he deliuered the Iron, Tinne, Lead, Hops, Sugars, Spices, Oyles, browne paper, or whatsoeuer else, from six moneths, to sixe moneths: Which when the poore Gentleman came to sell againe, hee could not make threescore and ten in the hundred, beside the vsury. The Mercer, hee followeth the yong Vpstart Gentleman, that hath no gouernment of himselfe, and he feedeth his humour to goe brauely: he shall not want Silkes, Sattins, Veluets, to prancke abroad in his pompe; but with this proviso, that he must binde ouer his Land in a Statute Marchant, or Staple, and so at last forfeit all vnto the mercilesse Mercer, and leaue himselfe neuer a foote of ground in England, which is the reason, that for a few remnants of Veluets, and Silkes, the Mercer creepeth into whole Lordships. The Goldsmith is not behinde, for most of them deale with Vsury, and let yong Gentlemen haue commodities of Plate, for ten in the hundred, but they must lose the fashion in selling it againe, (which cuts them sore) beside, they are most of them skild in Alcumy, and can temper metals shrewdly, with no little profit to themselues, and disaduantage to the buier, beside pusse rings, and quaint conceits which I omit. And so for you, Draper, he fetcheth them off for Liuery Cloth, and Cloth for six months and sixe, and yet hath he more knacks in his Budget, for he hath so darke a shop, that no man can well chuse a piece of Cloth, it so shadowes the Die and the Thred, a man shall be deceiued in the Wooll and the Nappe, they cause the Clothworker so to presse them: beside, hee imposeth this charge to the Clothworker, that he draw his Cloth and pull it passing hard when he sets it vpon the Tenters, that hee may haue it full breadth and length, till Thred and all teare and rent a pieces: what care they for that? haue they not a drawer to serue their turne, to draw and seame vp the holes so cunningly that it shal neuer be espied? My selfe hath seene in one broad Cloth eightene score holes torne, rackt and puld by the Clothworker, only to please the Draper, and deceiue the common wealth. To be short, the Clothworker, what with rowing & setting in a fine nap, with powdering it and pressing it, with sheering the woolll to the prose of the thred, deale so cunningly, that they prooue themselues the Drapers minister to execute his subtilties, therefore if he chance to come, let him

be remembred. Now, Sir, for the Vintner, he is an honest substantiall man, a friend to all good fellowes, and truely my friend for my money, and worthy to be of the Jury.

Why (quoth Cloth breeches) I am of another minde, for I hold him as deceitfull as any of the rest. What, the Vintner? why, he is a kinde of Negromancer: for at midnight, when all men are in bed, then he, forsooth, fals to his charmes and spels, so that hee tumbles one Hogshead into another, and can make a cup of Claret that hath lost his colour, looke high, with a dash of Red wine at his pleasure. If he hath a strong Gascoine Wine, for feare it should make his ghests too soone drunke, he can allay it with a small Rochel wine: he can cherish up white wine, with Sacke: and perhaps if you bid him wash the pot cleane when hee goes to draw you a quart of Wine, he will leave a little water in the bottome, and then draw it full of Wine. And what if he doe? tis no harme, wine and water is good against the heat of the Liver. It were infinite to rehearse the iuggling of Vintners, the disorder of their houses; especially of the persons that frequent them: and therefore fifty Velvet breeches hath put by the Merchant, Goldsmith, Mercer, and Draper, the Vintner shall goe with them for company. As these were going away in a sunne, for being thus plainely taunted: we might see a mad merry crue come leaping ouer the field as frolikely, as if they ought not all the world two pence: and drawing nearer, we might perceiue that either bottle Ale or Beere had made a fray with them: for the lifting of their feet, shewed the lightnesse of their heads. The formost was a plaine countrey Sir Iohn, or Vicar, that proclaimed by the redness of his nose, her did oftner goe into the Alehouse, then the Pulpit: and him I asked, what they were, and whither they were going? What are you, qd. the Priest, that stand by the highway to examine me, & my friends? here's none in my company but are able to answere for themselues. I seeing they were all set on a merry pin, told the cause, and how the controuersie grew betwixt Cloth breeches, and Velvet breeches, and that wee needed them to bee of the Quest. Marry (quoth Sir Iohn) a good motion: know, these all are my parishioners, and we haue bin drinking with a poore man, and spending our money with him: a neighbour of ours that hath lost a Cow. Now for our names, and our trades, this is a Smith, the second,

cond, a Weauer; the third, a Miller; the fourth, a Cooke; the fift, a Carpenter, the sixt, a Glouer, the seuenth, a Pedler; the eight, a Tinker; the ninth a Waterbearer; the tenth, a Husbandman; the eleuenth, a Dyer; and the twelfth, a Saylor, and I their Vicar. How could you, Sir, haue a fitter Iury then mee, and my Parishioners? You are a little too bricke, qd. Cloth breeches: are you not some Puritan, q. Parson, or some fellow that raiseth vp new schismes & heresies amongst your people? A plague on them all, qd. I, Sir, for the world was neuer in quiet: deuotion, neighbourhood, nor hospitality neuer flourished in this Land, since such vpstart boyes, & thittle witted fooles became of the ministery. I cannot tell, they preach faith, faith, and say that doing of almes is Papistry: but they haue taught so long Fides solùm iustificat, that they haue preached good workes quite out of our parish: a poore man shall as sone breake his neck as his fast, at a rich mans doore: For, my friend, I am indeed none of the best schollers; yet I can read an Homily euery Sunday & Holiday, and I keepe company with my neighbours, and goe to the Alehouse with them: and if they be falne out, I spend my money to make them friends: and on Sundaies sometime, if goodfellowship cal me alway, I say both morning and euening prayer at once, and so let them haue a whole afternoone to play in. This is my life, I spend my liuing with my Parishioners: I seeke to doe all good, and I offer no man harme. Well, (qd. Cloth breeches) I warrant thou art an honest Vicar, and therefore stand by, thou shalt be one of the Quest. And for you, Smith, I see no great fault in you; you earne your liuing with the sweat of your browes, and there can be no great knauery in you: only I would haue you to mend your life for drinking, sith you are neuer at quiet, vnlesse the pot be still at your nose. But you, Weauer, the Prouerb puts you down for a crafty knaue: you can filch, and steale, almost as ill as the Taylor: your woofe, and warpe, is so cunningly drawne out, that you plague the poore countrey huswiues for their Yarne, and dawbe on so much dreggs, that you make it seeme both well wrought, and to beare waight: when it is slenderly wouen, and you haue stolne a quarter of it from the poore wife. Away, be packing, for you shall be calhierd. What, Miller! shake hands with your brother the Weauer for knauerie: You can take Toll twice, and haue false hoppers to conuey away

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the poore mans meale. Be gone, I loue not your dusky lookes: and for company, goodman Cooke, goe you with them: for you cozen the poore men, and countrey Termers, with your filthy meat. You will buy of the worst, and cheapest, when it is bad enough for dogs, and yet so powder it, and parboyle it, that you will sell it to some honest poore men, and that vnreasonably too. If you leaue any meate ouernight, you make a shift to beate it againe the next day. Nay, if on the Thursday at night there be any left, you make Pies of it on Sunday mornings, and almost with your slouenly knauerie poison the poore people. To be short, I brooke you not, and therefore be walking. For the Carpenter, Glouer, and Water-bearer, the Husbandman, Dier, and Saylor, sith your Trades haue but petty sleights, stand you with Master Vicar, you are like to help to gine in the verdict: but for the Pedler and the Tinker, they are two notable knaues, both of a haire, and both cozen Germans to the Diuell. For the Tinker, why, he is a drowsie, bawdy, drunken companion, that walkes vp and down with a trugge after him, and in stopping one hole, makes three: and if in conuenient place, he mates with one alone, perhaps rifle him, or her, of all that euer they haue. A base knaue without feare of God, or loue to any one but to his Whore, and to himselfe. The Pedler as bad, or rather worse, walketh the Countrey with his Dockey at the least, if hee haue not too his Ports Dels, and Autem Morts: he passeth commonly through euery paire of Stocks, either for his Drunkennes, or his Lecherie. And beside, it is reported, you can lift or nip a young like a guire Coue, if you want pence, and that you carry your packe but for a colour to shadow your other villanies. Well, howsoeuer, you are both Knaues, and so be iogging. Well, quoth I, suppose the Iury is almost full, I beleeue wee want not aboue three or foure persons: Looke you where they come to make vp the number, and they should be men of good disposition, for they seeme to be all of the Countrey. As soone as they came to vs, I met them and told them the matter, and they were content. The one said, he was a Grasier; the other, a Farmer; the other, a Shepheard to them both. What thinke you of these three, quoth I? Marry, saith Velvet breeches, two of them are honest men, but the other is a base knaue: but tis no matter, shuffle him in amongst the rest.

Nay,

Nay, by your leaue (quoth Cloth breeches) I will chastle out these two, for they are the very Cormorants of the Country, & deuoure the poore people with their monstrous extortions. And first I alledge against the Grasier, that hee forestalleth Pastures and Peddoll grounds for the feeding of his Cattell, and wringeth Leases of them out of poore mens hands, and in his buying of Cattell, he committeth great vsury, for if it proue a wet yeere, then he maketh hauocke and selleth deare, if it be a dry yeare, then he buyeth cheape, & yet hauing Pasture, keepes them till he may come to his own price: he knoweth as well as the Butcher by the feede of a Bullock, how much Tallow he will yeeld, what his quarters will amount vnto: what the Tanner will giue for the Hide: Nay, what the housewiues were able to make of the inwards: so that he sels it so deare to the Butcher, that he can scarse liue of it: and therefore what subtilty the Butcher vseth, commeth from the Grasier, so that I exempt him from the Quell as a bad member, and an ill friend to Cloth breeches. And for you, Maister Farmer, you know how throughly you, couetous Landlords raise their rents: for if a poore man haue but a Plough land, if you see his pastures beare good grasse, and his areable ground good corne, and that he prospereth and goeth forward on it, and prouideth and maintaineth his wife and seruants honestly, then Inuidus alterius rebus macrescit opimis,

Vicinumque pecus grandius vber habet.

Then straight enuy pricks the Farmer forward, and he bids the Land-lord farre more then the poore man paies, yeerely for it: so that if he be a Tenant at will, he puts him out to beg in the street: or when his Lease comes out, he ouer-loades him in the fine, & thus bloudsuckеth he the poore of his own priuate profit. Besides, the base chuffe if he sees a forward yeere, and that corne is like to be plenty, then he murmureth against God, and sweareth and protesteth he shall be vndone: respecting more the filling of his owne coffers by a dearth, then the profit of his country by a generall plenty. Beside, sir, may it please you, when new corne comes into the market, who brings in to relieue the state? Not your mastership, but the poore husbandman, that wants pence. For you keepe it till the back end of the yeere, nay you haue your Garners which haue corne of two or three yeere old, vpon hope still of a deare yeere, rather letting

the Measels eate it, then the poore should haue it at any reasonable price. So that I conclude, you are a Cormorant of the Common wealth, and a wretch that liues of the spoile of the needy, and so I leaue you to let with the Grasier. Harry for the Shepheard, vnlesse it be that he killeth a Lambe now and then, and sayes the Fox stole him, I know little craft in his Budget, therefore let him be among the honest men of the Jury.

Well, Cloth breaches (quoth I) you are very peremptory in your challenges, what say you? here comes three or foure Citizens, will any of these serue turne? I cannot tell (quoth he) till I know their names and conditions. With that I stept afore the company, and enquired what they were: the eldest of them being a graue Citizen, said he was a Grocer, the rest, his good and honest neighbours, a Chandler, a Haberdasher, a Clothworker, and two strangers, one a Wallon, the other a Dutchman. How like you of these (quoth I) to Veluet Breaches? Well enough (quoth he) for I am little acquainted with them, yet I know they fauour me, because I haue on a Sunday sene them all in their likes. I marry (quoth Cloth breeches) but they neuer get that brauery with honestly: for the Clothworker, his faults were laid open, before when we had the Draper in question: and therefore let him be packing. For you, Chandler, I like not of your trickes, you are too conuersant with the Kitchen-stuffe wiues: you, after your weeke or snaft is stiffened, you dip it in filthy drosse, and after giue him a coat of good tallow, which makes the Candles drop and waste away, to the great hinderance of the poore worke men that watch in the night. Beside, you pinch in your waights, & haue false measures, & many other knaueries that I omit: but this be sure you shall not meddle in my matter, neither the Haberdasher, for he trims vp old Felts, and makes them very faire to the eye, and faceth and edgeth them eatly, and then he turnes them away to such a simple man as I am: and so abuseth vs with his cozenage. Beside, you buy gum & Taffata, wherewith you line Hats, that will straight asunder, as soone as it comes to the heats of a mans head. To bee briefe, I am not well skild in your knaueries; but indeed you are too subtill for poore Cloth breaches: and therefore you shall be none of the Jury. Harry, the Grocer seemes an honest man, and I am content to admit of him, onely

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take this as a caueat by the way, that you buy of the Garbellers of Spices, the refuse that they sift from the Marchant, and that you mixe againe and sell it to your customers. Besides, in your beaten Spices, as in Pepper, you put in Bayberries, and such drosse, and so wring the poore: but these are sleight causes, and so I ouerpasse them, and vouchsafe you to be of the Quest. But I pray you, what be those two honest men (quoth the Grocer?) The one a Dutchman, and a Shoomaker, the other a Frenchman and a Pillaner in Saint Martins, & sels Shirts, Bands, Bracelets, Jewels, and such pretty toies for Gentlewomen. Oh they bee of Velvet Breeches acquaintance, Upstarts as well as he, that haue brought with them pride and abuses into England: and first, to the Pillainer: What toyes deuiseth he to feed the humor of the vpstart Gentleman withall, and of fond Gentlewomen, such Fannes, such Ouches, such Brooches, such Bracelets, such Graundies, such Perriwigs, such Paintings, such Ruffes and Cuffes, as haue almost made England as full of proud fopperies as Tyre and Sydon were: there is no Seamster can make a Band or Shirt, so well as his wife: and why forsooth? because the filthy Queane weares a Caunce, and is a Frenchwoman forsooth: whereas our English women of the Exchange are both better workewomen, and will afford a better penny worth. And so for the drunken Dutchman, this Shoomaker, he and such as hee is, abuseth the Common wealth, and the poore mechanicall men & handicrafts men of London: for our new Upstart fooles of Velvet breeches fraternity, like nothing but that the outlandish Asse maketh. They like no Shoo so well as the Dutchman maketh, when our Englishmen passe them farre. And so for Chandlers, and all other occupations, they are wronged by the Dutch and French. And therefore sith the Commons hate them, they cannot be my friends, and therefore let them be launching to Flushing, for they shall be no tryers of my controuersie. Well (quoth I) now I suppose the Jury is full, and we see no more commings, let vs call them, and see how many may we haue. So they appeared to their names as followeth.

The names of the Iury to be impanelled.

1 Knight.	13 Cutler.
2 Esquire.	14 Plaisterer.
3 Gentleman.	15 Saylor.
4 Priest.	16 Ropemaker.
5 Printer.	17 Smith.
6 Grocer.	18 Glouer.
7 Skinner.	19 Husbandman.
8 Diet.	20 Shepheard.
9 Pewterer.	21 Waterman.
10 Sadler.	22 Waterbearer.
11 Ioyner.	23 Bellowsmender.
12 Bricklayer.	24 Poet.

What, is it not possible, qd. I, to haue one more to make vp the foure and twenty? As I was thus speaking, I spyed a farre off, a certaine kinde of an ouerworne Gentleman, attired in Veluet, and Sattin, but it was somewhat dropped and greasie, and bootes on his legges, whose soles wared thin e seemed, to complaine of their Master, which treading thrift vnderhis feet, had brought them vnto that consumption: he walked not as other men, in the Common beaten way, but came compassing Circum circa, as if we had bin diuels, and he would draw a Circle about vs, and at euery third step he looked backe, as if he were afrayd of a Bayly or Sergeant.

After him followed two pert Apple-squires: the one had a Murrey cloth gowne on, faced downe before with gray Conny, and laid thicke on the sleeues with Lace, which he quaintly bare vp, to shew his white Taffata hose, and blacke silke Stockins, a huge ruffe about his necke, wrapt on his great head like a Wicker Cage, a little hat with brimmes, like the wings of a doublet, wherein hee wore a Iewell of glasse, as broad as the Chancery Seale. After him followed two boyes in Cloakes like Butter-flyes, carrying one of them his cutting sword of choller: the other his dancing Rapier of delight. His Camerade that bare him company, was a iolly light-timber'd Iacke a Napes, in a sute of watchet Taffata, cut to the skinne, with a cloake all to be dawbed with colour'd Lace: both he and my gowned brother, seemed by their pase, as if they had some suites to Mounsieur Bootes. At length comming neere, I might

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discerne the first to be a Poet; the second, a Player; the third, a Musician, alias, the Usher of a Dancing schoole. Well met, Maister Poet, quoth I, and welcome you friends also, though not so particularly knowne. So it is, though none of you three be Commonwealths men, yet vpon vrgent necessitie, wee must be forced to employ you. We haue a Jury to be empanelled immediately, which one of you three must help to make vp, euen hee which approoues himselfe the honestest man. They are all honest men, good fellowes, and Velvet breeches, therefore it is no great matter whether of them we choose.

The Doctors doubt of that, quoth Cloth breeches: for I am of a different opinion. This first, whom by his carelesse flowenly gate, at first sight, I imagined to be a Poet, is a waftegood, and an vnthrift, that he is borne to make the Tauernes rich, and himselfe a Beggar. If he haue forty pounds in his purse together, he puts it not to vsury, neither buyes Land nor Marchandize with it, but a moneths commodity of Wenches, and Capons. Ten pound a supper. Why, tis nothing. If his plough goes, and his inkehorne be cleere. Take one of them worth twenty thousand pound, and hang him. He is a King of his pleasure, and counts all other, Boores, and Peasants: that though they haue money at command, yet know not like him how to domineere with it to any purpose as they should. But to speake plaine. I thinke him an honest man, if hee would but liue within his compasse, and generally no mans foe but his owne. Therefore I hold him a man fit to be of my Jury. Nay, quoth Velvet breeches, I haue more minde to these two, for this Poet is a proud fellow, that because he hath a little wit in his budget, will contemne and mislike vs that are the common sort of Gentlemen, and thinke we are beholding to him, if hee doe but bestowe a faire looke vpon vs. The Player and the Usher of the dancing schole are plaine, honest, humble men, that for a 5. or an old cast suite of apparell will do any thing. Quoth Cloth breeches, you say troth, they are but too humble, for they be so lowly, that they be base-minded; I meane not in their lookes, nor apparell, for so they be Peacocks, and painted asses, but in their course of life, for they care not how they get crownes, I meane how basely, so they haue them, and yet of the two, I hold the Player to be the better Christian, although hee is in his owne imagination, too full of selfe-liking, and selfe-loue, and is vn-

fit to be of the Jury, though I blue and conceale his faults and fopperies, in that I haue beene merry at his sports: onely this I must say, that such a plaine countrey fellow as my selfe, they bring in as clownes and fooles to laugh at in their play, whereas they get by vs, and of our almes the proudest of them all both liue. Well, to bee briefe, let him trot to the stage, for he shal be none of the Jury. And for you Maister Vsher of the dancing schoole, you are a leader into all misrule, you instruct Gentlemen to order their fet, when you driue them to miscarry their mummers, you are a bad fellow, that stand vpon your tricks and capers, till you make yong Gentlemen caper without their Lands. Why, sir, to be flat with you, yourline by your legges, as a Juggler by his hands: you are giuen ouer to the pompe and vanities of the world. And to be short, you are a keeper of misrule, and a lewd fellow, and you shall bee none of the Quest. Why then, quoth I, you are both agreed that the Poet is he that must make vp the fours and twentith. They answered both, he, and none but he. Then I calling them all together, bade them lay their hands on the booke. And first I cald the Knight, and after the rest, as they followed in order, then I gaue them the charge thus:

Worshipfull, sir, with the rest of the Jury, whom wee haue ordered of choice honest men, whose consciences will deale vprightly in this controuersie, you & the rest of your company are heere vpon your oath, and othes to inquire whether Cloth breeches haue done diffeison vnto Velvet breeches, yea, or no, in or about London, in putting him out of franke tenement, wronging him of his right by imbolishing his credit, if you finde that Cloth breeches hath done Velvet breeches wrong, then let him be set in his former estate and allow him reasonable damniages. Vpon this they laid their hands vpon the Booke, and were sworne, and departed to the scrutins of the offender, by inquirie amongst themselues, and stirring out of our sight, or staying long, but straight returned, & the Knight for them as the formost, said thus: So it is, that we haue with equitie and conscience considered of this controuersie betweene Velvet breeches, and Cloth breeches, as touching the prerogatiue of them both, which are most worthy to be rightly resident, and haue seison in franke tenement heere in England; and we doe finde that Cloth breeches is by many hundred yeeres more ancient, euer since Bruce

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an inhabitant in this Iland, & that he hath been in Diebus illis, a companion to Kings, an equall with the Nobilitie, a friend to Gentlemen, and Yeomen, and a patron of the poore, a true subiect, a good housekeeper, and generally as honest as he is ancient: Whereas Velvet breeches is an Vpstart, come out of Italy, begot of Pride, nursed vp by Self-loue, & brought into this country by his companion Newfangleneſſe, that he is but of late time, a raiſer of rents, and an enemie in the Commonwealth, and one that is not any way to be preferd in equity before Cloth breeches: therefore in generall verdict we adiudge Cloth breeches to haue done him no wrong, but that he hath lawfully claimd his Title of franke tenement, & in that we appoint him for euer to be reſident. At this verdict pronounced by the Knight, all the ſtanders by clapt their hands, and gaue a ſhout: whereat I ſtarted, and awaked; for I was in a dreame and in my bed, and ſo roſe vp, and writ in a merry vaine what you haue heard.

FINIS.